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HAWAII.

Plague death at Honolulu.

HONOLULU, December 10, 1904.

WYMAN, Washington:

There was a death from plague December 10.

COFER.

INDIA.

Reports from Bombay—Cholera, plague, and smallpox—Preventive measures relative to pilgrimage to Mecca.

Acting Asst. Surg. Edward H. Hume reports, November 12 and 19, as follows:

Mortality of Bombay city.

	Week ended—	
	Oct. 25.	Nov. 1.
Plague attacks.....	<i>a</i> 67	<i>b</i> 69
Plague deaths.....	63	60
Plague mortality per 1,000.....	4.22	4.02
Smallpox deaths.....	2	1
Cholera deaths.....	0	1
Total deaths.....	624	600
Total mortality per 1,000.....	41.81	40.20

a Of 67 attacks 2 were imported.*b* Of 69 attacks 8 were imported.*Abstract of statement of preventive measures in force relative to pilgrims to Mecca.*

The observation camp where the pilgrims are segregated is at a place called Pir Pao, on an island across the harbor. As soon as the camp is ready for a group of pilgrims a notification is sent to the "protector of pilgrims," an official of the commissioner of police, and, at his direction, as many as can be accommodated in the camp at one time come to the disinfection station on a certain morning. Here, as early as a quarter to 7, the port health officer takes his position at a small table within a barrier, outside of which stand the pilgrims, numbering, perhaps, 1,000 or 1,100. Most of these are old men, going to make the pilgrimage before they die, but there are a few younger men, quite a number of women in white "purdah" dress (the veiled costume), and not a few children.

A wise regulation of government insists upon every pilgrim having a return railway ticket from Bombay to his home before he is allowed to start on the sea voyage, the object being to save Bombay from being crowded with pauper pilgrims on their return from Mecca. The two railways leading out of Bombay have each opened an office where these tickets can be obtained. Every pilgrim has also to procure a police coupon bearing his name. Armed with railway ticket and police coupon, he comes to the barriered table, where government brokers act between him and the health officer. The coupon and ticket are handed in, together with the passage money to Jeddah, the port of Mecca, the former when stamped becoming a receipt for the passage money.

Directly after this transaction, the pilgrims, 60 or 70 at a time, are passed into the disinfecting shed. Each individual was subjected to medical examination, a woman doctor dealing with women and children. Portions of the pilgrims' belongings were then disinfected by steam—portions, because on the day of inspection under consideration the pilgrims had between them 16 cartloads of wheat, coal, etc.; some carried tents, most had sundry cooking utensils, others had parrots in cages, baskets of fowls, and so on. Compensation is given by Government if anything is lost during sterilizing. With the exception of a pair of boots, nothing has ever been even damaged.

The pilgrims thus examined had come from many parts of India; 2 from Bokhara in Central Asia, 2 from Calcutta, 1 from Basra on the Persian Gulf, 1 of 82 years from Bhopal in North India, while many other distant cities of India were represented.

To provide a thousand or more pilgrims with passes and put them through the disinfection shed takes a whole morning, and directly after this they are marched in groups by the police to the Mallet Bandar (pier), and at this point the customs authorities take charge and convey them across the harbor in barges to Pir Pao. The distance is 8 miles and the trip takes somewhat over an hour. There are two landing piers here, one of which is available at all states of the tide. A light railway, recently laid, takes baggage from the pier to the camp. The camp itself is a model village, and is well located, close to the water and surrounded by tree-covered hills. It is in two sections, each made to accommodate 500 adults. As two children count as one adult, there are usually about 1,100 persons in camp when it is full. The pilgrims greatly dislike the idea of going to camp, but when once there they show that they are quite contented.

The pilgrims are accommodated in cadjan huts, and a notice board in a prominent place tells them of their privileges and rules. Letters are delivered and collected twice daily. A large shed is set apart as an office and place for prayer, and next to this is a native shop where everything can be bought, from deck chairs to cheap candy, at prices which, by Government regulation, must approximate those in the Bombay bazars.

There is a large cooking shed, and baths are provided, with water carriers. Special accommodation is given to first and second class passengers.

The drinking water is obtained from wells not far off. All the sanitary arrangements, as well as the control of the camp, are under the charge of a medical officer, who has a staff of native policemen for the maintenance of order.

Last year a stay of ten days in camp was obligatory; this year the period has been reduced to five days, including the days of arrival and departure.

The Government makes the passage arrangements now, so that pilgrims who would formerly have paid 40 to 60 rupees for the passage to Jeddah now make the whole journey for 19 rupees (\$6.16).

Sixteen feet of room have to be allowed for each passenger, and every vessel must carry a doctor, drugs of the best quality, a steam sterilizer, and sufficient food for the pilgrims if their own supplies prove inadequate, the whole arrangement having to be approved by the board of trade.

In spite of all these elaborate precautions, the Turkish Government requires all pilgrims to be held for ten days in quarantine at the island of Kamaran before being allowed to land at Jeddah.

Progress of plague.

Plague in the Bombay Presidency, June to October, 1904.

	Attacks.	Deaths.
June 1 to August 31, 1904.....	38,386	26,881
September, 1904.....	43,295	30,863
October, 1904.....	56,887	42,371
Total for 5 months.....	138,568	100,115
Total, September, 1896, to May, 1904.....	1,552,142	1,175,645
Total since outbreak of plague.....	1,690,710	1,275,760

As reported before, the increase in plague since the end of the rainy season in September is quite what one would expect. The following figures will indicate the worst affected districts:

Deaths from plague, districts of Bombay Presidency, 1904.

District.	Popula- tion.	August.	Septem- ber.	October.
1. Ahmedabad.....	795,344	508	1,099	703
2. Kaira.....	716,253	409	1,165	1,025
3. Broach.....	291,729	93	228	139
4. Surat.....	636,882	991	2,031	1,485
5. Khandesh.....	1,426,805	772	1,045	1,963
6. Nasik.....	815,349	1,010	2,396	3,136
7. Satara.....	1,146,030	1,302	3,848	7,695
8. Sholapur.....	720,587	383	618	780
9. Ahmednagar.....	836,817	629	1,267	1,887
10. Belgaum.....	992,262	2,262	3,133	4,322
11. Dharwar.....	1,112,612	1,971	2,407	3,953
12. Bijapur.....	735,400	2,448	2,994	4,925
13. Kolhapur.....		1,168	1,761	3,718
14. Kathiawar.....		1,566	2,612	1,671
15. Baroda.....		979	2,034	1,804

In my report of October 1, 1904, the populations of some of the districts were incorrectly given. They are correctly recorded above.

The districts numbered above, 1, 2, 3, 4, are all in the province of Gujarat, and it will be observed that in each of them September was the worst month, there being a marked decrease in the plague mortality during October. The districts numbered from 5 to 9, inclusive, are in the western and central provinces, and in each of these you will observe a marked steady increase from August onward through October, the Satara district alone showing at least a doubling of the mortality in successive months.

The same is true of districts 11, 12, 13, all in the southern province, where plague has been very severe for a number of years. With these should be noted the Kolhapur (No. 13) record. This is a native State really lying within the southern province, and the mortality there increases similarly.

Nos. 14 and 15 are two other native States, lying within the Gujarat province, and in them, as in the districts of that province (164) as recorded above, September was the worst month.